

Approved March 8, 2017

**Town Meeting Coordinating Committee
Minutes for October 28, 2016, 3:00-5:00 pm
Bangs Center, Room 101**

Present: Peggy Roberts, Mary Streeter, Alan Powell, Barbara Ford, Patricia Holland, Jacqueline Maidana

Absent: Chris Riddle

Attending: Town Manager Paul Bockelman

Peggy Roberts called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM.

1. **Town Manager:** We had a cordial discussion of our committee's concerns with our new Town Manager, Paul Bockelman:
 - The problem of the inconsistent application of the term limit policy for town committees
 - The delay in printing the TM warrant because the Select Board had trouble approving it
 - Our committee's long-standing preference that the Town Manager not vote in TM since he's not elected even though he's permitted to do so by the Charter
 - The problem of developers proposing plans inconsistent with the Planning Board's Master Plan
 - Our committee's preference that town staff answer questions addressed to them at TM
 - The budget for TMCC expenses for bus trips and reimbursement of home-care expenses of TM members
 - The problems Amherst Media is having with obtaining the town's contractMr. Bockelman said he has been very impressed with the quality not only of the top levels of town departments but also of the secondary levels. He said his goal is "to maintain a civil dialogue." He then withdrew from the meeting.
2. **Warrant Review:** We studied the comments on last Tuesday's Warrant Review. We all felt attendance was low because TM members had not received their packets. Jacqueline thought the speakers should have introduced themselves.
3. **Town Meeting Packet:** Mary said she had delivered four sheets of information from TMCC to be mailed with TM warrant. The warrant is over two weeks late in getting out to TM members.
4. **TMCC/Planning Board Question & Answer Forum:** Jacqueline agreed to introduce the members of the Planning Board at the forum next Tuesday. Alan will be in touch with Chris Brestrup about changes to the zoning primer. We also discussed the problem that proposed revisions to planning regulations describe only the new language without showing the current language.
5. **Precinct Meetings:** We still need copies of the old and new versions of planning rules and a map of the proposed new traffic plan in North Amherst. Since the TM warrant will not be mailed till November 3rd, people going to the earliest meetings will need copies.
6. **Bus Tour:** We discussed including possible stops relevant to the article on planning a new site for the fire department but decided against any since the planning is still at such an early stage. Pat will phone Lynn Griesmer, who chairs the study committee, to see if she can explain the issue on the bus trip.
7. **Subcommittee:** Jacqueline gave a report on TMCC's subcommittee concerning the proposed town charter.

8. Town Website & TMCC Listserv: Not discussed.

9. Topics Not Anticipated 48 Hours Before Meeting: None.

10. Minutes: Not enough time.

The meeting adjourned at 5:38 PM.

Minutes submitted by Patricia Holland, Clerk.

Documents Distributed:

Agenda

Comments on TMCC's Warrant Review